

Recently I was fortunate enough to acquire a small original postal stationery accumulation from the correspondence of the Taff Vale Railway. Amongst this lot was a batch of previously unrecorded cards perfinned T V / R through the imprinted ½d Edward VII 'stamp', all postmarked Cardiff between 1902 and 1912 and addressed to G. T. Sibbering at Barry. (Fig. 1).

The die used for perforating these cards was that illustrated by Bowman; from the die placement it is likely these were struck individually or in small numbers as required and that the die was a single head device, as there is no trace of an adjoining perfin and the strikes seldom line up together.

All these cards were without apparent proof of identity, but a card from the Institute of Civil Engineers finally revealed Mr. Sibbering's full title; "Engineer, Taff Vale Rly., Cardiff" (Fig. 2), so we can now consider these as positively identified.

To return to the perfinned cards, these fell into three main types:

- A) With imprinted blue-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thin card coloured cream to light buff, used between 6.9. '02 and 13.2. '05.
- B) With imprinted yellow-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thick white card, only one example used on 19.5.'06.
- C) With imprinted yellow-green ½d Edward VII 'stamp' on thin card coloured cream to light buff, used between 24.5.'05 and 12.6.'12, of which there were two subtypes.

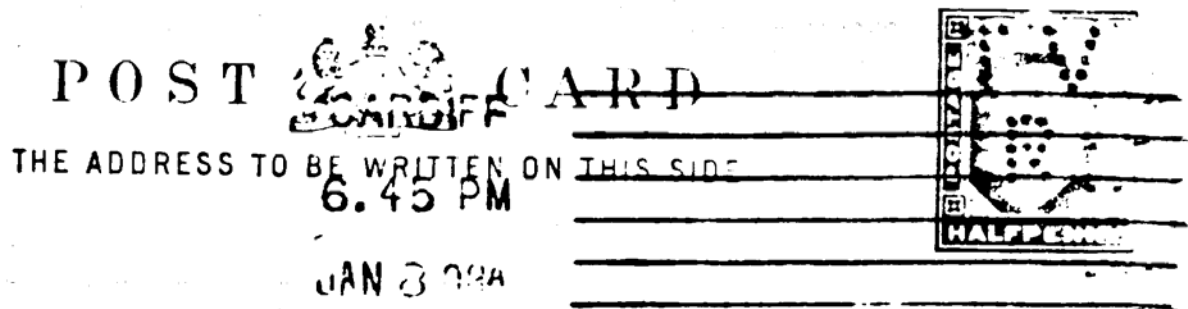
Two non-perfin items were possibly noteworthy:

- 1. A 1d postal stationery envelope with the company's printed return address and seal, postmarked London.
- 2. Several inward P.S. envelopes from the Bemrose, Stationers, Derby company. From the first item I can speculate that perfin usage was confined to internal company correspondence, and from the second that the Bemrose company possibly supplied the perfin die (they were known to be interested in rouletting stamps prior to the Henry Archer experiments) or perhaps supplied the TVR with perfinned stamps and cards from the die on their premises - can Derby members unearth any information?

Unfortunately there were no items bearing stamps among the accumulation, so TVR identity covers and cards bearing adhesives remain rare - but these perfinned cards are not. I presently have about 30 surplus duplicates which members might wish to acquire.

Please contact me by phone: 061 736 3839 or by letter to 54 SAXBY STREET, SALFORD 6, H6 7RG.

I have been a member for a number of years and attend selected Stamp Fairs within a 50 mile radius of Manchester with a fair range of G.B. and World postal history, etc., and would be pleased to see fellow members for a natter. Please make yourselves known.

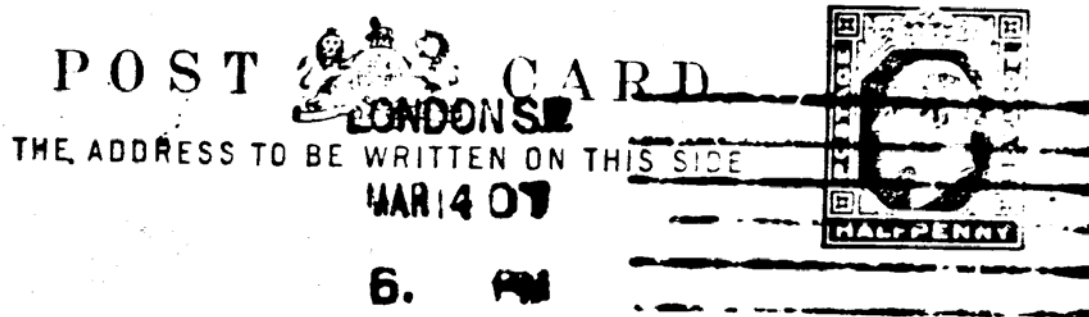


G. T. Sibbling Esq.  
Bryn awel

Lamb. Road

Barn.

Fig. 1



G. T. Sibbling Esq

Engineer

Luff Vale Rly.  
Cardiff

The Inst. C.E.

Fig. 2